

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 NEA-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /104 W

-----231023Z 049215 /17

R 230408Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0359

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 6262

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ASEAN, TH

SUBJECT: RTG'S ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECT

REF: (A) STATE 61147 (NOTAL): (B) BANGKOK 2496 (NOTAL):

(C) STATE 57668 (NOTAL): (D) MANILA 3954 (NOTAL);

1. MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY OFFICIALS AGREE THAT ADB WILL SELECT FIRM TO DO FEASIBILITY STUDY OF ROCK SALT-SODA ASH PROJECT TO BE FUNDED BY ADB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (REF. D, PARA. 1). WITH REGARD REF. C, PARA. 4, OFFICIALS SAID RTG POLICY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT EXCLUDE FIRM WHICH PERFORMED FEASIBILITY STUDY FROM FURTHER CONSULTING OR DESIGN CONSTRUCTION WORK OR FROM TAKING EQUITY POSITION IN PROJECT.

2. TO DATE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SORT OUT THE CORPORATE RELATIONSHIPS CITED REF. C, PARA. ALTHOUGH REFTEL CITES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAI ASAHI GLASS AS PRIME "COMPETITOR" FOR DIAMOND-SHAMROCK, THESE FIRMS WERE IN FACT JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS IN PRE-FEASIBILITY LOOK AT PROJECT IN 1974. MOREOVER THAI ASAHI CLASS (A JOINT VENTURE OF THE SRIFEUNGFUNG FAMILY WITH THE JAPANESE ASAHI GLASS CO.) AND CATHAY TRUST OF THAILAND, CITED AS KEY TO CHOICE OF FOREIGN EQUITY PARTNER (WHICH WE ASSUME WOULD BE DIAMOND SHAMROCK), ARE BOTH OWNED BY MEMBERS OF

WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL SRIFEUNGFUNG VAMILY.

3. OUR ONLY DIRECT CONTACT WITH DIAMOND SHAMROCK IN NEARLY TWO YEARS WAS JAN. 12, 1977, LETTER FROM COMPANY PRESIDENT, W.H. BRICKER, STATING THAT DIAMOND REMAINS INTERESTED IN PROJECT AND THAT TOKYO OFFICE IS HANDLING DETAILS.

4. WE DOUBT THAT DIAMOND SHAMROCK NEED FEAR BEING ACED OUT OF OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN SODA ASH PROJECT, WHICH, AS WE REPORTED IN FEBRUARY (REF. B), IS PROJECT FOR WHICH RTG SEEKS PRIVATE INVESTMENT, SO FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS. IN ADDITION, RTG ALSO REMAINS WEDDED TO CONCEPT OF EQUITY INTEREST BY ASEAN PARTNERS, TO DATE AN UNREQUIRED LOVE. AT PRESENT, PROJECT HAS HIGH PRIORITY AMONGST PLANNERS BUT IS DORMANT OPERATIONALLY, PENDING DESIGNATION OF CONSULTING FIRM FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY BY ADB.

5. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, RTG OFFICIALS SAID THAT A DR. MASSEY, U.S. STEEL AREA REP RESIDENT IN AUSTRALIA, CALLED ON DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES (MR. PISOOT) WEEK AGO TO DISCUSS RENEWED INTEREST IN THAILAND'S POTENTIAL POTASH DEPOSITS. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DETAILS WHEN MR. PISOOT RETURNS FROM TRIP TO EUROPE.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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